

Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs

Introduction to the Issue

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The past four years have been an exciting adventure as I helped to launch the *Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs*. During this time I have seen the journal through its struggle as an unknown, open-source journal to a journal with a growing readership base and the support of the discipline to extend its publication to three issues a year. As I release my last issue as the journal's editor-in-chief, I am proud of the work that my team has done in ensuring the journal's success and humbled by the trust that the discipline has placed in us by sending us their manuscripts. I am confident that our early successes will be surpassed by the fantastic work that we can expect from the new editors: Bruce McDonald from NC State University and Lindsey McDougale from Rutgers University – Newark.

In this new issue of the journal, we have a number of exciting articles and reviews. In the first piece, Carroll and Calabrese (2017) use a national sample of nonprofit organizations to investigate the rent-seeking behavior of nonprofit charities. This behavior, along with the budgetary discretionary behavior of public agents, should lead to a positive relationship between nonprofit charities and government spending. Hanka and Engber's (2017) look at how social capital can serve as a tool for economic development. Using a sample of 121 heads of household from three neighborhoods in Evansville, IN, they find that the impact of social capital is driven by an individual's income.

Wells and Molina (2017) examine the ethics of honesty and deception in public administration. Previous research had demonstrated that honesty is viewed as an essential value for public service, but it has also shown that some public administrators rely upon deception to carry out their duties. Utilizing an interview-based approach, they adopt the American Society for Public Administration's Code of Ethics as a framework for assessing the ethics of the conflicts and examples provided by interviewees. In the final research article, McCaskill and Harrington (2017) use a sample of 36 environmentally focused nonprofit organizations to examine their social media engagement patterns. They find that government-funded nonprofits have less social media engagement than their privately-funded counterparts. The difference in engagement is tied to the need for privately-funded nonprofits to solicit contributions from donors who can choose who to financially support, providing evidence in support of the precepts of resource dependency theory.

In our section "Current Issues in Practice", we provide a piece from Blair and Williams (2017) on the use of public-private partnerships by universities. Using a case study of the University System of Georgia, Blair and Williams look at the 2014 decision by the system to issue a request for qualified contractors for the first partnership of its kind. While the contracts may be undertaken with the student in mind, their outcomes are centered on financial assurance for the institution and financial gain for the contractor. Given the reduction in funds being directed towards universities for infrastructure projects, such partnerships may provide the opportunities for construction that are sorely needed. They conclude that the values associated with a public-private partnership can best be described as risk-averse behavior.

We are also pleased to offer two book reviews. Henderson (2017) provides a review of *Person-Centred Healthcare: Balancing the Welfare of Clinicians and Patients* by Stephen Buetow. In his review, Henderson notes that the book argues that losing sight of the individual-centered nature of healthcare services is a disservice to both patients and doctors. Ultimately the book highlights

the need for a personalized view of healthcare. In the second review of this issue, Williamson (2017) looks at Donald F. Kettl's recent text *Escaping Jurassic Government: How to Recover American's Lost Commitment to Competence*. The book offers a series of lessons for those seeking to reform government.

References

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